

**Destructive Forest Fires.**

**Carter's Crossing Township Swept by Flames.**

A destructive forest fire swept over the Mannville section Tuesday afternoon and that night. An immense amount of damage was done to standing timber and fencing, and a great deal of property was destroyed. Hundreds of people spent the afternoon and a greater part of the night in fighting the flames, in the attempt to save their homes from destruction. In some cases the progress of the fire was stayed by the greatest exertion and houses were saved, but others whose homes were in the track of the fire lost everything. The following places are reported destroyed.

Clavins Boykin, lost his dwelling house and all outbuildings, corn forage and farm implements.

Mrs. Patsie Atkinson, also lost her dwelling house, all outbuildings and their contents.

Mrs. Martha Bradley's house and buildings and contents were totally destroyed.

Two houses on the place of Darling Davis were burned.

Four other tenant houses on various places are known to have been burned, and it is thought that other houses were also destroyed but have not been reported.

The Bridges & McKethan Lumber Co., had several mules burned.

Mr. H. W. Rembert's place had a narrow escape from total destruction and was saved only by the hardest kind of work of a large force of hands.

Mr. R. M. Aman's Rembert place was also in great danger Tuesday night. The sparks were blown a distance of a quarter of a mile, and his barns were on fire several times. He kept a force of twenty hands on guard all night, and constant vigilance alone kept the buildings on the place from burning.

The aggregate loss resulting from the fire cannot be estimated at present, as full and accurate reports are not obtainable. It is thought, however, that the total loss will be thousands of dollars.

**PISGAH FIRE SWEPT.**

**Furious Forest Fires in the Spring Hill Country.**

Mr. J. E. DuPre, of Pisgah, was in the city Thursday afternoon and from him an account of the forest fires that swept over Spring Hill township Tuesday afternoon and night was obtained. The fire started in a heavily timbered section of the northwestern edge of the township and swept across it in a southeasterly direction. Hundreds of acres of virgin timber land were almost totally destroyed and the loss in that respect alone was very heavy. The fire burned with inconceivable fierceness and rapidity, fanned as it was by the gale of wind that was blowing. A larger portion of the timber land had not been burned over for many years and the ground was covered with a heavy coating of straw, litter and brushwood, which being extremely dry and inflammable in consequence of the protracted drought, rendered all efforts to control the fire absolutely ineffectual. The flames roared through the woods with the voice of a hurricane, rising to a height of fifty to a hundred feet, while clouds of smoke filled the heavens and obscured the sun until objects could not be distinguished at a distance of a hundred feet.

The farm of Mr. W. T. Hawkins was in the track of the fire and three houses with their contents were swept away. One house on the place of P. M. Hawkins, occupied by Henry Scott, was burned also, the occupants barely escaping with their lives, nothing being saved but the clothes they had on. Several other places came near being burned, but being in large clearings were saved by hard work, although a perfect shower of sparks and burning coals fell around them. The fire, as witnessed from a vantage ground of safety, is said to have been appalling and terrific in grandeur as it swept from hill to hill, each tall pine becoming in an instant a tower of blazing light, and the underside of the pull of black smoke reflecting the glare of the flames, the whole country appeared to be overhung by a canopy of fire.

A large amount of cotton that has been in storage in this city for several months was sold and shipped last Wednesday.

The greater includes the less. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures hip disease and scrofula sores and it may be depended upon to cure boils and pimples and humors of all kinds.

Hood's Pills are the favorite family cathartic. Cure sick headache, break up a cold.

**The Forest Fires Near Ionia.**

Since our last communication all this country, for miles around, has been visited with the worst forest fire that has ever been known here. It occurred on last Tuesday, the 15th. There was fire everywhere, which caused hands to be scarce. The wind blew from the southwest from ten in the morning until about dark, when it shifted and came from the north, which just reversed the fire, and the wind was so high that it was dangerous to be in the woods. But I have not heard of anyone being hurt from trees falling. To give some idea of the fire: The woods have not been burned since Mr. Budd burnt it off for turpentine purposes, about 15 years ago, and the trees have been worked off and on nearly ever since. Nearly half of the timber has died from boring, and everything was as dry as a powder house, which made it impossible to stop the fire. We had raked and fired against it, and thought that if the wind would stop, we could keep the fire from spreading. But when the wind shifted, and came from the north worse than ever, all that we could do was to try and save the buildings, which a great many failed to do. It is useless for me to attempt to give you the names of all that lost houses. But two families in this immediate neighborhood lost every building they had, with all or nearly all the contents, besides numbers of tenant houses. Some saved the dwellings and lost outbuildings.

I will not try to give you but a faint idea now, as I am not over the worry and excitement yet. I am so thankful that it was no worse. By being up all night, and with the help of wife, I saved all except one tenant house. Yours, &c. DRY JIM. Ionia, S. C., Feb. 18

Frank Sherwood was down town to-day the first time since he had his tussle with cholera morbus. He says he drove thirty miles after he was taken, and never came so near dying in his life. After this when he goes out in the country he will take a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy with him—Missouri Valley (Iowa) News. For sale by Dr. A. J. China.

**Death of Mrs. J. E. Wingate**

TIMMONSVILLE, S. C., Feb. 21.—Mrs. J. E. Wingate died yesterday morning after five months illness. She was interred this morning. Rev. H. F. Oliver conducted the funeral services.

Mr. P. T. Jones, Jr., of the Banner Warehouse, impending some time in Virginia.

Mr. Minor Morris returned from Florida a few days ago. E. B. T.

**WIFE SELLING.**

**A Practice Which was Followed Half a Century Ago.**

Mr. Editor: Among the practices which have passed away was that of selling wives, Mr. Jim Avin, an old citizen of this township whose name I have already mentioned in these columns, speaking of his younger days, said in "that day and time it was a common thing for men to sell their wives." Mr. Avin knew three instances where men did so, one of these men lived in what is now Privateer Township and he sold his wife, as well as Mr. Avin could remember, for "a gallon of whiskey, a pound of tobacco and a pair of shoes." This event occurred fifty odd years ago. The sale appears to have been, to a large extent, merely nominal, still it was a sale. Times have been changed since then and changed for the better. No white man would dare sell his wife now and I hardly suppose a negro would undertake such a job. McDonald Furman, Ramsey, Privateer Township, Feb. 21, 1898.

**Meteorological Record.**

The following is a report of observations of the weather taken at Stateburg, by Dr. W. W. Anderson, for the past week, ending Feb. 20, 1898:

Date	Temperature	Wind	Rainfall	Condition		
	Max.	Min.	Mean.			
14	69	42	55.5	W	00	Clear
15	71	48	59.5	SW	00	Cloudy
16	52	32	42	W	00	Clear
17	55	33	44	W	00	Cloudy
18	62	46	54	SW	00	Cloudy
19	55	47	51	SW VA	00	Cloudy
20	67	49	58	SW VA	.34	Cloudy

Partly cloudy. Dense smoke has filled the atmosphere most of the week, from forest fires in all directions. Dense fogs accompanied and followed the rain of the 18th, without removing the smokiness, which, however, was entirely cleared away by the heavy shower and wind Sunday evening, the 20th.

**Sinking Fund Commission Finally Crosses the Bridge.**

The State sinking fund commission, under the provision slipped into the new sinking fund commission act by the free conference committee in the last days of the recent session, has cancelled the mortgage given by J. W. Alexander on the agricultural hall property and marked the \$10,000 document "satisfied," thus making the purchaser a present of a clear ten thousand dollars in the effort to head off Mr. Lyles in his fight to have the federal courts pass upon the validity of the Blue Ridge scrip.

The State a few days ago gave a statement of the status of the case, showing why it was considered absolutely necessary to do this in order to prevent Mr. Lyles from forcing the State into court in a case raising directly the main issue as to the validity of the scrip. It was thought then that the State would take such action. When Mr. Lyles was told that this seemed to be the next move of the State in the rather interesting and exciting legal game, he remarked that this was the only sensible thing for the State to do; then he smiled and added that "it seemed to him that it came too late." It is known that the papers in the case referred to have been filed for some time. It was said last evening that Attorney Lyles had left the city in the afternoon, but wither he went is not known. He does not seem to be ruffled by the apparent knock out blow, however. His next move is not even guessed at yet.

Yesterday all the members of the sinking fund commission were present at the meeting. The meeting continued for several hours; the entire matter was discussed and gone over in all its phases; finally the board reached the decision to cancel the mortgage, mark it "satisfied," and return it to Mr. Lyles as attorney for J. W. Alexander. A resolution to this effect was adopted, so the board announced, but a copy of the paper could not be obtained, owing to the usual amount of red tape that has to be gone through in order to find out what the commission has done.—The State.

**Mrs. Wm. C. Whitney Hurt.**

**Whitney Hurt.**

**Fox Hunting With Large Party Prominent People.**

Special to The State. Aiken Feb. 21.—This morning about 9 o'clock quite a serious accident occurred to Mrs. Wm. C. Whitney, who is spending the winter in Aiken. Mrs. Whitney, with a party of friends, was just starting out for a fox hunt when, in crossing a covered bridge, one of the rafters struck her on the forehead making an ugly gash about six inches long. She fell from her horse unconscious and was quickly surrounded by the rest of the party who secured a carriage and brought her home, where she is receiving every attention. The reason assigned for the accident was the fact that Mrs. Whitney has been riding a very small horse ever since she has been here and passed under this bridge a number of times, but this morning she was on another and much larger mount, and this brought her head too high to pass under in safety.

Hon. M. R. Cooper, of Colleton, is in the race for secretary of state.

**The Negro Postmaster at Lake City Killed.**

**Williamsburg Stained by an Atrocious Crime at Lake City.**

**Women and Children Fall Before the Guns of a Brutal, Passion-Swayed Mob of South Carolinians.**

Special to The State

Lake City, Williamsburg County, Feb. 22.—On the night of the 16th instant the small building just outside the corporate limits of Lake City, which was formerly a school house and which had been converted into a dwelling and postoffice, jointly occupied by Postmaster F. B. Baker, colored, and family was well riddled with bullets from the guns of unknown parties. No harm was done to the occupants of the house.

This failing to prove a sufficient warning to Baker, was followed this morning just before 1 o'clock by another attack upon the house by a mob which shot it 75 or 100 times, setting fire to the building in the meantime.

Five of the children and Baker's wife escaped death, but all but two children were wounded by gun shots and are maimed for life.

Baker was shot down just inside of the door as he was attempting to come out of the building.

An infant baby was shot out of its mother's arms as she was about passing out of the door.

Baker's body and that of the child were cremated in the flames.

The building and the entire post-office equipment were consumed by fire, and the citizens of Lake City are without a postoffice.

It is certainly one of the most horrible crimes ever committed in the State.

One of Baker's girls is thought to be fatally wounded.

The coroner held an inquest over the dead bodies this afternoon. The verdict is to be rendered next Saturday.

The feeling in Lake City among the whites is one of deep regret at the horrible deed committed so near the town. The best citizens deeply deplore that they have been placed in a position to receive the censure and bear the disgrace of the awful tragedy, when it is not generally believed that citizens of the town helped to make up the mob, though as yet the guilty parties are unsuspected.

Feeling is running high among the negroes and trouble is feared to night, as the negroes believe that the crime was committed by whites.

Frazier Baker was a black negro, about 40 years of age, and was appointed and took charge of the Lake City postoffice about six months ago. He was a native of Florence county, and never had lived at Lake City until he went there to take charge of the postoffice. The people of Lake City protested against the appointment. Twice within the last two months the man has been shot at.

This is in line with the bill of Dr. Wyche, passed by the Legislature of South Carolina, just closed. It is in the right direction and the congress should be well attended and by men who are competent to get intelligently on the subjects to be discussed. There is no doubt that much of the food that is sold and consumed by the people is adulterated. We are particular to have our fertilizers analyzed and to know what kind of food we give our crops, and lately South Carolina has made much ado about chemically pure liquors, but that which we take every day and which is intended to sustain life has been gulped down, so to speak, with utter disregard of what it was. It is of vital importance that our food should be pure and wholesome. The patent medicine preparations are on the increase and the demand for them must increase or there would not be an increase in the production. This is an important matter and we hope the congress may result in much good.—Newberry Herald and News.

**They'll Have More Work.**

The legislature having passed an act placing telegraph and express companies under the supervision of the railroad commission, they will thus be directed at the end of ten days when the law becomes operative. The probabilities are that there will be little trouble with them as there is not generally any complaint as to the service rendered by these companies.

But it will add work to that of the commission without any increase in salary and it is not likely that the members of the commission view that act with pleasure.

**Washington Letter.**

Washington, Feb. 21.—How much longer Congress can stand the strain which has been imposed upon it by the action, or rather non-action of the administration upon the destruction of the battleship Maine and the killing of 250 of its men, in Havana harbor, without an explosion, is problematical. Mr. McKinley has disappointed many of his supporters, and nothing but the unwritten law under which Congress has always supported the President in all questions of policy affecting a foreign nation has prevented an outbreak before this. Inasmuch as there are probably not 50 men in Congress who do not believe that the Maine was blown up intentionally, it is difficult to understand why Mr. McKinley and the Secretary of the Navy should so persistently assert their belief that the awful calamity was the result of an accident on board the Maine.

The naval attaché of the Spanish Legation, has publicly announced the same belief, and added that the accident was the result of carelessness and lax discipline. Ye gods! and this meddlesome fool has not been sent after de Lome. It could have been understood if Mr. McKinley and his Secretary of the Navy had said that they had no opinion to offer in advance of the finding of the naval court of inquiry, which has been appointed to investigate the awful affair, but why they should take a position that is a reflection upon Captain Sigbee and the other brave officers of the Maine, is only explainable upon the theory that they are afraid of offending Spain, and that in the event of the failure to find direct and conclusive evidence that the Maine was blown up by Spanish treachery, Captain Sigbee is to be made a scape-goat. It was the general opinion in Congress that Mr. McKinley should have ordered the entire U. S. fleet, now off the coast of Florida, to Havana harbor, to remain during the investigation, but so far, not even a single warship has been ordered there—Secretary Long says that one will be. It is not surprising that the Spaniards should think and say that we are afraid to send another warship to Havana. Up to this time, Mr. McKinley has only done one thing that has met the unqualified approval of Congress, and the indications point to his having done that under compulsion. That was to refuse to grant the request of the Spanish authorities at Havana, to have a Spanish diver accompany every American diver who made an examination of the hull of the Maine. Just who is entitled to credit for his having done that has not yet been ascertained, but it is certain that somebody is, as Secretary Long had stated before the official request reached Washington, but after it was known that it would be made, that it would be granted. Congress doesn't wish the world to know that it differs with the President; hence it has so far done nothing further than to appropriate \$200,000 to be used in saving as much of the Maine and her equipment as possible, but the strain is terrible, and it is still on.

There is a difference of opinion as to whether Senator Mason chose just the right time to make that red-hot speech of his, and also as to the good taste of some of his remarks, which were certainly not such as would be likely to increase our prestige abroad but the truthfulness of the following is fully apparent: Why should the administration now hesitate? The President hesitated because of autonomy. Why should he not act when the minister has confessed that it is not real, but a fraud and a sham? Autonomy, by the confession of the Spanish Minister, is a fraud, a delusion and a snare—a common confidence game of a common thief, confessed out of his own mouth." No one could doubt the contempt felt by Mr. Mason for Spanish diplomats and Spanish diplomacy, after he said: "I would not sit down at the same table with a Spaniard unless I had an iron-clad wall between his stiletto and my architecture. There is nothing in Spanish diplomacy for a hundred years which prove them anything but common scoundrels."

Nothing yet seriously proposed in the line of paternalism goes further than a joint resolution offered by Representative Lovering, of Mass., providing for an amendment to the Constitution, authorizing Congress to regulate Hours of labor in all the states. The House Judiciary Committee has actually been giving hearings on that resolution. A delegation of cotton mill men from the

South appeared before the Committee to protest against the resolution, but they could have saved money by staying at home. We may come to that sort of thing in time, but not yet.

Only 12 democrats and one populist voted for the Bankruptcy bill which passed the House by a vote of 159 to 124. The bill passed is a substitute for the Nelson bill passed by the Senate at the extra session, and it provides for both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy.

**The Naval Fighting Strength of the United States.**

The possibility of serious international complications, growing out of the recent destruction of our battleship Maine, in the harbor of Havana, naturally arouses fresh interest in the fighting strength of our American naval outfit.

Of course the frightful disaster which has overtaken the Maine, whether due to Spanish foul play or to some internal accident, tends to weaken public confidence in the security afforded by our battleships, and to bring distrust upon the entire white squadron. Nor is this to be easily avoided when the country is suddenly confronted with the spectacle of seeing one of its gigantic iron-clads converted into mere doll galleys by reason of some mysterious explosion. In such mishaps as the one which now confronts us, is it not proper to apply the old adage and judge of the entire squadron by the power of resistance which the Maine has manifested, or rather failed to manifest?

While this question is bound to arise in the public mind, it is well to note that the Maine, although costing the government somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000, does not appear in the catalogue of our first class battleships. Since its total displacement aggregated only 6,682 tons, its proper designation is that of a second class battleship. Our first class battleships, with the tonnage in each case, are nine in number as follows: The Kentucky, 11,525 tons; the Kearsage, 11,525 tons; the Illinois, 11,525 the Alabama, 11,525; the Wisconsin, 11,525; the Iowa, 11,410; the Oregon, 10,288; the Indiana, 11,288 and the Massachusetts, 10,288.

To summarize the fighting strength of the white squadron, it includes nine first class battleships, two second-class battleships, two armored cruisers, thirteen protected cruisers, three unprotected cruisers, one armored ram, six double-turreted monitors, thirteen single-turreted monitors, ten gunboats, six composite gunboats, three special class gunboats, twenty two steel torpedo boats, one wooden torpedo boat, five iron cruising vessels, eleven sailing vessels, six tugs, eight wooden steam vessels and six wooden sailing vessels. In the aggregate there are 141 different naval pieces in the white squadron, only fourteen of which are obsolete and unfit for service in the event of war. So far as the resistive power of our battleships is concerned, it is safe to say that in spite of the disastrous experience of the Maine, there is no country on the globe which can boast of superior engines of war. Of course, such countries as Great Britain and France are provided with more of them, but they are not of better workmanship.

But what of Spain' naval outfit. This question is certainly pertinent in this connection. Most of Spain's naval engines are out of date. She has only one first-class battleship which is worthy of the name—the Pelaya—and even this falls considerably short of our smallest one, its displacement being only 9,900 tons. One apparent advantage which Spain's fleet has over ours, is in the number of armored cruisers. While her fleet contains seven of these cruisers, ours contains only two, viz, the New York and the Brooklyn; but this advantage is partially overcome by the superior equipment of our cruisers. The New York and Brooklyn carry seventy-four monster guns; the Spanish cruisers carry 208 smaller and inferior ones. On good authority, the statement is made that Spain has no sea-going coast-defense ships, while this country has six, carrying thirty heavy guns and fifty-two light guns. Of non-sea going coast-defenders, Spain has only two, while this country is credited with fourteen. Of protection and non-protection cruisers, Spain has only five, while the United States has sixteen. In the number of gunboats and torpedo boats available for use in the event of hostilities, the United States is also ahead of Spain.

From this hasty review of the two squadrons, it is evident that the United States possesses every advantage over Spain, and that if war comes, as now seems imminent, it will be the latter power which will have everything to lose.—Atlanta Constitution.

A cutting scrape took place about three miles below Foreston last Saturday night in which William Barribeau, a white man, was cut in five places by a negro by the name of Goins. Dr. G. L. Dickson of this town was called to see the wounded man and he found two of the wounds severe, but not necessarily fatal.—Manning Times.

**Smallpox in Columbia.**

**Discovered Sunday Afternoon in Negro Settlement—Doctors Once Don't Disagree.**

The State, Feb. 21.

At last a well defined case of what is supposed to be smallpox has appeared in Columbia, and in accordance with the frequent promises made in The State, this paper now gives the public all that is known about it and all that the board of health is doing to guard against the spread of the pest. Every precaution has, is being and will be taken to prevent a spread. If the case turns out to be genuine smallpox, and the physicians who have diagnosed it say that it is, the only feature that is at all threatening is that it was found in a settlement of negroes. Before many read this the patient will be on his way out into the sand hills with a physician to watch over and guard him through his illness. He is to be taken six miles away from town. Fortunately the majority of those who have been about the victim have been vaccinated.

It was about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Dr. Knowlton received a call to come to No. 6 in Spring Park, by which from the cluster of some 25 negro houses running back on the outskirts of the city from Elmwood avenue at the foot of Bull street, is known. He was told that he was wanted to see a negro who had been sick for a period of nine days in that house. It was not until he went in that he had any idea of the discovery he was to make. Dr. Knowlton no sooner looked at the man, who is about 43 years of age, than he diagnosed the case to be one of smallpox. He says that it is what he considers a typical case of this disease, though "there may be a shadow of a doubt about it being smallpox." He found quite a number of negroes around. These he drove away and had the patient moved into an inner room, quarantining him as much as possible until he could report the case to the board of health. The doctor was so busy attending to these details and seeking information as to the circumstances of the illness that he entirely forgot to get the negro's name. He says the negro was an ugly sight. When he came back down street he sent Dr. R. W. Gibbs up to take a look at the fellow. Dr. Gibbs at once confirmed Dr. Knowlton's diagnosis. The negro first told the doctors that he had been vaccinated two years ago; then he told them that his young mauses had vaccinated him during the war. It was not known where he came from.

Dr. Knowlton, upon having his diagnosis confirmed, at once called up the chairman of the board of health. That officer was out of the city. He thereupon notified Mayor Sloan of the suspected case. In a short time Dr. A. E. Booser, the acting chairman of the city board of health and Secretary T. T. Talley were aware of the matter. Several police officers were at once detailed to go out and quarantine the entire settlement, allowing no one to either go in or come out.

In the meantime the board and Mayor Sloan acted quickly and well. Dr. Sylvester, who has had smallpox himself and has treated many cases, was engaged to take charge of the case. A tract of land six miles from the city, off from the Camden road, belonging to Mr. Dent, was secured and Adjutant General Watts agreed to furnish army hospital tents. By 9 o'clock all arrangements for taking the patient out of the city early this morning were completed. If Dr. Sylvester pronounces the case genuine smallpox this morning, the board will likely quarantine the entire Spring Park settlement and issue a compulsory vaccination mandate. Fortunately the bulk of the people of the city have already been vaccinated, and it is not considered likely that there will be any spreading of the disease.

If Hawaii is annexed, Mr. McKinley will have additional opportunities to appoint colored postmasters.—Edgefield Chronicle.

The sleepy merchant goes to the wall. His wideawake neighbor thrives by keeping goods that are in demand, and by never offering customers what he knows they do not want.

**Winburn,**

THE  
**People's, Popular, Progressive Photographer.**

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Jan 25—1f.

**The State of South Carolina, COUNTY OF SUMTER.**

By T. V. Walsh, Esq., Probate Judge. WHEREAS, SARAH ANN TUCKER, (widow) made suit to me to grant her Letters of Administration of the Estate of and effects of Rich'd Tucker, deceased.

These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Rich'd Tucker, late of said County and State, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Sumter C. H., on March 9, 1898, next, after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand, this 23d day of February, A. D., 1898.

THOS V. WALSH, Judge of Probate.